

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08938 01 OF 02 141535Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00  
ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 SAA-01 IO-14 TRSE-00  
SSM-05 AF-10 ( ISO ) W  
-----029117 142124Z /61

O 141424Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4183  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION SINAI  
USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 8938

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, IS  
SUBJECT: JULY 14 PRESS RESPONSE TO WEIZMAN-SADAT TALKS

1. SUMMARY: SALZBURG TALKS RESTORE MOMENTUM TO THE  
PEACE PROCESS. HOWEVER, BOTH SIDES SEE DELICACY OF  
WEIZMAN'S POSITION. INVITATION TO WEIZMAN A SURPRISE  
TO GOI, AND SOME MINISTERS EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS  
ABOUT ACCEPTING IT. BUT TRIP HAS FULL SUPPORT OF  
PM BEGIN. EGYPTIANS DO NOT HIDE THEIR PREFERENCE FOR  
DEALING WITH WEIZMAN RATHER THAN WITH BEGIN OR DAYAN.  
ABSENCE OF AMERICAN MEDIATORS PLEASING TO BOTH SIDES,  
ALTHOUGH USG RESPONSE TO MEETINGS REPORTED FAVORABLE.  
PRESS COMPLETELY CONFUSED OVER MOTIVES ON BOTH SIDES  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 08938 01 OF 02 141535Z

FOR SADAT-WEIZMAN TALKS. EFFECT OF MEETINGS ON  
LONDON CONFERENCE SIMILARLY UNCLEAR. EDITORIAL RESPONSE  
TO TALKS IS DECIDEDLY MIXED. END SUMMARY.

2. ISRAELI PRESS JULY 14 EMPHASIZES THE AIR OF OPTIMISM  
GENERATED BY DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN'S JULY 13  
MEETINGS WITH SADAT AND GAMASY IN SALZBURG. AS THE

JERUSALEM POST (LANDAU) PUT IT, "THE VERY ADVENT OF THE ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER TO THIS AUSTRIAN VILLAGE SEEMED TO GIVE THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS AN INFUSION OF HOPE. THE WORD OF WEIZMAN'S IMMINENT ARRIVAL PUT SMILES ON THE FACES OF THE HIGH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS... AND HIS WARM WELCOME BY GENERAL GAMASY WAS REMINISCENT OF A HAPPY REUNION OF OLD FRIENDS...WEIZMAN...SEEMED TO HAVE RECHARGED THE AIR WITH THAT HEADY EUPHORIA OF DECEMBER 1977. ONCE AGAIN PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES WERE SAYING THAT 'THINGS HAVE GONE TOO FAR FOR US TO TURN BACK TOWARDS WAR AGAIN'...."

3. HOWEVER, ALL NEWSPAPERS STRESS THAT BENEATH THE SURFACE THERE IS AN AWARENESS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DELICACY OF WEIZMAN'S POSITION. BOTH WEIZMAN AND THE EGYPTIANS WERE CAREFUL TO EMPHASIZE THAT WEIZMAN WOULD BE REPORTING BACK TO BEGIN. WEIZMAN, IN FACT, INSERTED A REFERENCE TO BEGIN IN ALMOST EVERY REMARK HE MADE TO THE PRESS, EMPHASIZING, "YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT MY FIRST REPORT HAS TO GO TO PRIME MINISTER BEGIN. I CANNOT REVEAL ANY DETAILS BEYOND STATING THAT I HAVE ENJOYED THE TALKS AND I THINK THEY WERE USEFUL."

4. HAARETZ (BENZIMAN) REPORTS THAT THE INVITATION EXTENDED TO WEIZMAN CAME AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO THE GOI AND WAS TREATED WITH RESERVATION BY A NUMBER OF GOI UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEL AV 08938 01 OF 02 141535Z

MINISTERS. HOWEVER, WEIZMAN'S ACCEPTANCE WAS FULLY SUPPORTED BY PRIME MINISTER BEGIN. DAYAN IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SUPPORTED WEIZMAN'S TRIP WITH THE RESERVATION THAT THE GOI WAS ALLOWING ITSELF TO BE DRAGGED INTO SENDING OUT ENVOYS EVERYTIME SADAT BECKONED. MINISTER SHARON EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE TIMING OF THE WEIZMAN TRIP SO CLOSE TO THE LONDON CONFERENCE, WHILE MINISTER HURVITZ AND OTHER GOVERNMENT SOURCES WERE COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO WEIZMAN'S JOURNEY AS HELPING SADAT IN A "PUBLIC RELATIONS MOVE".

5. THE POST ALSO REPORTS THE EGYPTIANS WERE NOT HIDING THEIR CLEAR PREFERENCE FOR DOING BUSINESS WITH WEIZMAN RATHER THAN WITH BEGIN OR DAYAN. WHEN THE EGYPTIAN SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT WEIZMAN WOULD BE COMING TO ALEXANDRIA SOON, FOR FURTHER TALKS, IT WAS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THE FAVORED CHANNEL OF DISCUSSION HAD BEEN OPENED AGAIN.

6. ONE ASPECT OF THE TALKS EMPHASIZED BY THE PRESS WAS THE ABSENCE OF AMERICAN MEDIATION, A FACTOR WHICH BOTH SIDES SEEMED TO ENJOY. LANDAU ASSERTS THAT WHILE

SADAT HAS BEEN URGING THE U.S. TO PUT FORWARD ITS OWN PROPOSALS AT THE LONDON CONFERENCE, THERE IS STILL SOME UNCERTAINTY, EVEN MISTRUST, AMONG HIS AIDES AS TO WHAT SUCH PROPOSALS MIGHT CONTAIN. "THE TALKS WITH WEIZMAN PROVE THAT EGYPT IS NOT PREPARED, AT THIS STAGE AT LEAST, TO PUT ALL ITS EGGS IN THE AMERICAN BASKET." LANDAU ALSO HOLDS THAT THERE IS ALSO NO GREAT ENTHUSIASM ON THE ISRAELI SIDE FOR A HYPERACTIVE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT. THE DEFENSE MINISTER'S AIDES STILL CONFIDENTLY BELIEVE THAT THEIR MAN, GIVEN SUFFICIENT SCOPE, COULD SECURE A DIRECT DEAL WITH THE EGYPTIANS WITHOUT THE NEED FOR AMERICAN ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, THE AMERICAN RESPONSE TO THE SALZBURG MEETING IS WIDELY REPORTED AS "PLEASANTLY SURPRISED" AND "DELIGHTED". THE PRESS EMPHASIZES UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 TEL AV 08938 01 OF 02 141535Z

THAT THE USG HAD NO PART IN ARRANGING THE MEETING, BEING GIVEN ONLY A FEW HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08938 02 OF 02 141548Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00  
ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 SAA-01 IO-14 TRSE-00  
SSM-05 AF-10 (ISO) W

-----029789 142147Z /61

O 141424Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4184

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION SINAI

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 TEL AVIV 8938

7. THERE EXISTS SOME CONFUSION IN THE PRESS OVER THE PRECISE PURPOSE OF THE WEIZMAN TRIP. A VARIETY OF EXPLANATIONS FOR BOTH THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN INTERESTS IN THE TALKS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED. ON THE ISRAELI SIDE, THE POST (GOODMAN) SPECULATES THAT WEIZMAN WAS CHARGED WITH EXPLAINING TO THE EGYPTIANS THAT THEIR DEMAND FOR TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WEST BANK IS INCONSISTENT WITH ISRAEL'S SECURITY NEEDS AND WITH FINDING OUT FROM SADAT WHETHER HE (SADAT) STILL STANDS BY HIS MARCH 30 PROPOSAL THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE ABLE TO RETAIN A MILITARY PRESENCE ON THE WEST BANK AFTER ITS WITHDRAWAL. FROM THE ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW, WRITES GOODMAN, WEIZMAN'S ROLE IS EXPLORATORY, NOT CONCERNED WITH NEGOTIATION. BOTH THE POST AND MA'ARIV (HARIF) SAY HE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 08938 02 OF 02 141548Z

DID NOT TAKE ANY NEW PROPOSALS WITH HIM.

8. YEDIOT (GUINEY) WRITES THAT BY INVITING WEIZMAN AFTER MEETING WITH PERES, SADAT HOPED TO DEMONSTRATE HIS WILLINGNESS TO TALK TO "ALL MODERATE ELEMENTS" IN ISRAEL, GOVERNMENT OR OPPOSITION. GOODMAN AND MA'ARIV'S GOLAN AND OBERMAN SPECULATE THAT SADAT WANTED TO USE WEIZMAN AS A CONDUIT THROUGH WHICH TO EXPLAIN EGYPT'S IDEAS ON THE CURRENT IMPASSE, AND TO SOUND OUT ISRAEL'S POLICIES WITH SOMEONE WHO SPEAKS FOR THE GOI (AS OPPOSED TO PERES). GOLAN AND OBERMAN REPORT THAT WEIZMAN WILL BE RETURNING TO ISRAEL WITH THE "EGYPTIAN VERBAL DOCTRINE". OTHER SADAT MOTIVES SUBMITTED ARE THAT THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT WANTED TO HEAR THE GOI ATTITUDE ON THE KREISKY-BRANT DOCUMENT AND THAT SADAT FEARED THAT THE LONDON CONFERENCE WAS IN DANGER OF FAILING BEFORE IT EVEN BEGAN. AL HAMISHMAR (SHEHORI) SAYS THAT WITH THIS FEAR, SADAT IS TRYING TO DOWNPLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LONDON CONFERENCE WHILE EMPHASIZING EGYPT'S INTERESTS IN MAINTAINING THE POLITICAL MOMENTUM THROUGH PERSONAL TIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY GAMASY AND SADAT WITH WEIZMAN. SHEHORI ALSO CALIMS SADAT HAD "SOMETHING NEW" IN CONNECTION WITH A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WHICH HE WISHED TO CONVEY TO JERUSALEM BEFORE THE START OF THE LONDON CONFERENCE. HAARETZ (BENZIMAN) REPORTS THAT LABOR SOURCES ESTIMATED PERES HAD HAD A HAND IN CONVINCING SADAT TO MEET WITH WEIZMAN. A DAVAR EDITORIAL SPECULATES THAT SADAT'S INTENT WAS TO DIVIDE ISRAELI PUBLIC OPINION AND TO OBTAIN A RECEPTIVE EUROPEAN PUBLIC RESPONSE. IN ADDITION, DAVAR NOTES SADAT MAY FEAR THAT IF HE BY-PASSES THE GOI TOO MUCH THROUGH MEETINGS WITH OTHER

ISRAELIS, HE MAY HARDEN THE GOI'S POSITION.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEL AV 08938 02 OF 02 141548Z

9. ANOTHER SOURCE OF UNCERTAINTY FOR THE PRESS IS THE EFFECT THE WEIZMAN TALKS WILL HAVE ON THE LONDON CONFERENCE. THERE IS LITTLE SPECULATION BEYOND THE WIDESPREAD BELIEF THAT THE SALZBURG MEETING HAS CLEARLY UPSTAGED THE LONDON CONFERENCE. GOODMAN REPORTS THAT AMONG "SEASONED MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL OBSERVERS HERE" THERE IS A WIDE-SPREAD VIEW THAT KAMEL DOES NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY CLOUT BACK HOME TO NEGOTIATE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WITH DAYAN. THESE OBSERVERS BELIEVE THERE IS SIGNIFICANCE IN WEIZMAN'S NON-ANSWER TO QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER HIS SALZBURG MEETING WAS "PREPARATORY" FOR LONDON. CLEARLY, THEY SAY, IT WAS NOT.

10. EDITORIAL RESPONSE TO THE SALZBURG TALKS IS DECIDEDLY MIXED DAVAR REGARDS THE MEETING AS A "GOOD OMEN" AND A REAFFIRMATION OF THE BELIEF THAT THE ROAD TO A SETTLEMENT IS STILL OPEN. THIS NEWSPAPER HOLDS THAT THE SALZBURG TALKS ARE NOT IN CONTRADICTION WITH THE LONDON CONFERENCE AND THAT BOTH MEETINGS SHOW EGYPT'S RESOLVE TO REVIVE THE NEGOTIATING MOMENTUM AND THE NOVEMBER ATMOSPHERE. THE PAPER URGES THE GOI NOT TO REJECT THE HAND WHICH HAS BEEN EXTENDED. DAVAR TAKES POSITIVE NOTE OF AN APPARENT IMPROVEMENT IN THE TONE OF DAYAN' REACTION TO THE EGYPTIAN POSITION. HAARETZ, ON THE OTHER HAND, REGARDS THE WEIZMAN TRIP AS A BOMBSHELL, INITIATED BY SADAT TO IMPROVE WORLD PUBLIC OPIONION FOR EGYPT. ADDITIONAL MOTIVES MAY HAVE BEEN TO DEEPEN THE DIFFERENCES THAT EXIST WITHIN THE GOI COALITION AND BETWEEN THE GOI AND THE OPPOSITION. HAARETZ EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER THE GOI'S WORLD IMAGE AS A RESULT OF ALL THE VISITS SADAT HAS BEEN CONDUCTING WITH GOI OFFICIALS AND OPPOSITION LEADERS. SINCE NORMALLY HEADS OF STATE MEET ONLY WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS, HOW SHOULD ONE INTERPRET BEGIN'S BLESSING OF WEIZMAN'S AND PERES' MEETINGS? AS A SYMBOL OF KIND HEARTEDNESS, POOR HEALTH, OR INABILITY TO DO OTHERWISE? IN ANY OF THESE WAYS, THE GOI'S PRESTIGE IS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 TEL AV 08938 02 OF 02 141548Z

REDUCED AS A RESULT, AS IS THE STRENGTH OF THE STATE.  
LEWIS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PEACE TALKS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TELAV08938  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780289-0928  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780758/aaaabwnr.tel  
**Line Count:** 276  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** b4dd0773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 6  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2000070  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JULY 14 PRESS RESPONSE TO WEIZMAN-SADAT TALKS  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PINT, SOPN, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b4dd0773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014